



Great Falls Public Schools has reviewed the emergency rule issued by the Department of Public Health and Human Services, and the District reads the rule as permissive as it specifically provides that school districts “should consider” parental concerns and “should provide” an opt-out system for certain reasons. The District has done both. The District will continue to enforce its face covering guidelines to ensure the safety and welfare of all students and staff.

The School District has received hours of public comment from parents and others in the community on this issue, demonstrating its clear desire to listen and take the wishes of parents into account. The School District has been working with parents seeking options to the mask requirements in Elementary Schools. Parents seeking accommodations may contact their school Principal.

In addition, if a student has a medical reason for being unable to comply with the face covering guidelines, the District stands ready to have the conversation about what accommodations it can reasonably provide. Parents should work directly with their Building Principal or Administrator to determine the appropriate steps for requesting a medical exemption. A reminder that appropriate documentation from a medical provider will be needed.